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We Are ... Marshall, November 5, 2004

Office of Marshall University Communications

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We Are...Marshall!

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • NOVEMBER 5, 2004

Research Challenge Grants Recognized

Marshall University President Dan Angel joined research leaders and faculty Oct. 30 to accept two West Virginia Research Challenge Grants totaling \$727,300 to assist with project that will stimulate regional biotechnology development.

The grant awards, presented by West Virginia Secretary of Education and the Arts Kay Goodwin, are from State Research Challenge Grant funding that has been derived from a percentage of video lottery proceeds. This funding method, approved during the 2004 Regular Session of the West Virginia Legislature, is estimated to generate Research Challenge Grant funds that will exceed \$4 million this year.

"Today's grant presentations recognize the true strength of Marshall University. Our talented and dedicated faculty are discovering new and innovative approaches and applications every day for research that is being conducted and developed on our campus," Angel said. "We appreciate the efforts of Gov. Bob Wise, Secretary Goodwin, Sen. Bob Plymale and many other important members of the Legislature who made this commitment to support research at our state universities. These funds represent an investment that further enhances Marshall University's efforts to evolve as a researcher leader, building a powerful economic engine to power our state and region's future."

Two Marshall researchers, Dr. Richard Niles and Dr. Mike Norton, received the grant awards for projects that are currently in development at Marshall University.

Dr. Niles, professor and chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in the School of Medicine, received a \$399,300 Research Challenge Grant that will be used to strengthen Marshall's cancer research program. The funds will help establish the basic research component of the Edwards Comprehensive Cancer Center at the Marshall University Medical Center. The \$19 million facility, currently under construction at Cabell-Huntington Hospital and the Marshall University Medical Center, is slated for completion next fall.

Dr. Michael Norton, a professor of chemistry in the College of Science, received a \$328,000 Research Challenge Grant to continue research and development work on the innovative Vandalia Project. The project, initiated last year



Celebrating the Research Challenge Grants are, from left: Dr. Howard Aulick, Vice President for Research; Sen. Robert H. Plymale; Mrs. Kay Goodwin, Secretary of Education and the Arts; President Dan Angel; Dr. Richard Niles; Dr. Michael Norton, and Dr. Paul L. Hill, Executive Director of West Virginia EPSCor.

by a group of entrepreneurial Marshall students and faculty, focuses on development of a process, with patent pending, by which DNA fragments can be amplified quickly, easily and in large quantities.

'Klinger' to Portray George Burns Nov. 11



Marshall Artists Series will present "Say Goodnight Gracie" Nov. 11 at the Keith-Albee Theatre.

The life of George Burns, an Academy Award winning actor, comedian, dancer, singer and author, will be lovingly remembered when Jamie Farr brings his one-man show, "Say Goodnight Gracie: A Celebration of the Life of George Burns" to the Keith-Albee Theatre at 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 11.

Farr, an acclaimed actor best known for his role as the inventive Klinger on M*A*S*H, takes audiences on a personal tour of Burns' life. Through Farr, the audience remembers Burns' youth on the Lower East Side of New York, his career in Vaudeville, his marriage to Gracie Allen, their rise to success and finally,

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Memorial Set for Sunday, Nov. 14



Marshall's Student Government Association will conduct the annual memorial service for victims of the Marshall plane crash of Nov. 14, 1970. The service will take place at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 14 at the Memorial Fountain on the Huntington Campus.

Rural Education Hall of Fame Inducts 3

Marshall's June Harless Center for Rural Educational Research and Development honored three new Hall of Fame inductees Oct. 30.



David Ice

The inductions of David Ice, Lydia McCue and Robert H. Plymale brought the number of Hall of fame inductees to nine.

Hall of Fame inductees are chosen for their significant contributions to enhancing education in West Virginia, particularly in rural areas. Each inductee made an impact in one of three categories—administration, teaching or business partnerships.

Ice, who is Marshall's Grant Development Officer and Special Assistant to the President, is a graduate of Sistersville High School. He attended Ohio Valley College and received his bachelor's degree in social science from Harding University in Searcy, Ark. He attended graduate school at the West Virginia College of Graduate Studies and West Virginia University. He served as Cabinet Secretary and Senior Program Coordinator for the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts, and was a Research Associate to the West Virginia Legislature's Joint Committee on Education and a consultant to the West Virginia House of Delegates' Committee on Education. Ice has served on the Board of Directors of several nonprofit organizations. Among the many honors he has received are the Distinguished West Virginian Award, bestowed by Gov. Underwood in 2001, and the Ohio Valley College Alumni Award in 2000.



Lydia McCue



Sen. Bob Plymale

Lydia McCue has been recognized throughout her career as a pioneer in improving education in West Virginia and throughout the United States. She established the Putnam County High School Task Force and organized four national School Improvement District Leadership Conferences. She has also acted as a consultant for school improvement in several other states. She has researched and written staff development modules and designed and implemented student projects such as the West Virginia Social Studies Fair and the State Youth Government Program. Currently McCue is the Executive Assistant to the State Superintendent of Schools for the West Virginia Department of Education. She also serves as the Director of Middle Childhood and Adolescent Education.

State Senator Robert H. Plymale is currently serving his third four-year term in the West Virginia Senate. Presently he is Chairman of the Senate Education Committee and a ranking member of Senate Finance. Plymale is currently employed by the Nick J. Rahall Appalachian Transportation Institute in Huntington. He has served on various public and community organizations such as the board of directors for the Huntington Museum of Art, the Ceredo-Kenova Middle School LSIC, and the Wayne County Economic Development Authority. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Marshall.

Drinko Academy Recognized

Marshall's John Drinko Academy for American Political Institutions and Civic Culture has been recognized as one of the nation's top free institution programs by The Association for the Study of Free Institutions and Free Societies (ASFIFS).

The Drinko Academy was recognized among institutions at 11 colleges and universities throughout the nation as offering worthwhile models for those planning similar programs.

"It is truly a great honor and distinction for the Drinko Academy and Marshall University to be recognized alongside institutions of higher learning that are the caliber of Princeton University and Duke University," said Dr. Alan Gould, executive director of the Drinko Academy Center.

"In this day of divisiveness and polarization, it is even more important to support institutions that enhance the public sense of shared values. We need more institutions such as the Drinko Academy and organizations such as ASFIFS

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Lions Club Collecting Eyeglasses

Marshall's Lions Club is joining with other Lions Clubs across the nation in collecting used prescription eyeglasses and sunglasses for a unique recycling program taking place throughout the U.S. and Canada. The glasses can be deposited in the large yellow Lions Eyeglass Collection box in the Memorial Student Center.

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Classified Staff Waiver Applications Available

The Classified Staff Council is now taking applications for a limited number of undergraduate and E-course tuition waivers for spring semester 2005 through Tuesday, Nov. 16. Completed tuition waiver applications should be sent to the Staff Council Office at 123 Morrow Library.

Application forms are available at the Council's Web site, www.marshall.edu/staff-council. For additional information, contact Charlene Hawkins at ext. 6636.

We Are...Marshall!

Published by University Communications, with offices in Huntington (213 Old Main) and South Charleston (312 Administration Building).

The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of Nov. 19, 2004. Deadline is Nov. 12. Articles or other materials for consideration should be sent to Pat Dickson, editor, at the South Charleston campus or by e-mail to pdickson@marshall.edu.



Profile: Susan Lewis

A series on interesting Marshall University people.



Susan Lewis

Officially Susan Lewis has been a Marshall staff member for 30 years but sometimes she says it feels more like 36. Oh, wait, it has been 36 years.

And the vivacious payroll representative, who has worked both full and part time during her tenure here, is still going strong.

Actually Lewis came to Marshall in 1968, employed as a keypunch operator in the accounting department. After nine years she left to spend more time with her family, which includes husband William, who works in Physical Plant as the manager of the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning division, son Bryan and daughter Jennifer. She stayed home for a year and a half before returning to campus in her old department working part-time for the next five years.

"When the full-time person who had replaced me retired, I took that job again and I was back doing the job I had left years ago," she recalls. "That's how I officially get credited with 30 years although I worked six years part-time."

Although some may have found keypunch duties to be tedious, not so for Lewis. "Keypunch machines were the forerunners of computers," she says. "Some people did find the work laborious, but not me. I really enjoyed it. It was very structured and I liked that. But I wasn't sorry when we switched over to computers. You can do so much more with computers than with a keypunch."

She spent 25 years working in Accounting before making the change to Payroll. She enjoys working and it shows. "When I was hired, I told Sharon Rutherford, the payroll director, that since I had spent 25 years in Accounting, I expected to spend the next 25 years in Payroll," she says with a laugh.

Lewis graduated from Ceredo-Kenova High School and attended a business school where she learned to keypunch. After a three-and-a-half year stint in Washington, D.C. where she worked for the CIA, she returned home and shortly thereafter joined the Marshall staff.

Her attention to detail, combined with an artistic flair, has led her into a successful avocation. For the past 20 years she's been making exquisite, made-to-order cakes, ranging from elaborately decorated wedding cakes to whimsical party confections. She can take a wisp of an idea and turn it into an eye-catching creation. It's labor intensive, she admits, but lots of fun. Several years ago she expanded her culinary repertoire to include catering and she will put together an event from soup to nuts if requested.

"I can make almost anything anyone wants," she says. "People will sometimes bring pictures of what they want. Sometimes they want a picture on the cake. I don't have one of the picture-making machines but I do freehand drawings. People have

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Bariatric Surgeon Joins School of Medicine Faculty

Dr. D. Blaine Nease has joined the faculty of the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine as chief of bariatric surgery. He also is medical director of the Cabell Huntington Hospital Center for Surgical Weight Control.

Previously in private practice in Portsmouth, Ohio, and in southern California, Nease most recently was medical director of laparoscopic bariatric surgery at Garden Grove (Calif.) Hospital and Medical Center. He also worked closely with the Alvarado Surgical Associates, a group that includes Dr. Alan Wittgrove, who performed the world's first laparoscopic gastric bypass.

In laparoscopic surgery, surgeons work through tiny incisions, reducing patient discomfort and recovery time.

"I made a career decision to leave private practice and enter the academic setting, and I wanted to move back to southern Ohio where I could be closer to my family," Nease said.

Born in Atlanta, Nease was raised in southern Ohio and received his M.D. degree from Ohio State University. He completed his internship and residency in general surgery at the University of South Florida, where he also received extensive training in advanced laparoscopic and bariatric surgery. He is certified by the American Board of Surgery and is a member of the American Society for Bariatric Surgery and the American Society for Bariatric Physicians.

Nease is the only surgeon in the Tri-State region to devote 100 percent of his practice to weight-loss surgery. A veteran of more than 450 laparoscopic weight loss surgeries and many open procedures, Nease puts a strong emphasis on patient preparation and follow-up support.

"This surgery is not an easy way out for patients; it gives them a tool," he said. "That tool will be responsible for one-third of a patient's potential weight loss. It's imperative patients also make appropriate lifestyle changes in eating habits, which gives them another one-third of their potential

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Marching Thunder to Host High School Bands

Marshall's Marching Thunder will showcase the talents of some of the finest high school musicians from the region when more than 1,000 student musicians from a four-state area converge on the Joan C. Edwards Stadium on Saturday, Nov. 6 for Marshall's annual High School Band Day.

The band hosts the Tri-State Marching Festival, which begins at 11:30 a.m. in the Joan C. Edwards Stadium. The festival will feature 27 high school bands from West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky and Virginia. A final band performance is slated for 7:30 p.m., after which the Marching Thunder will perform at 7:45. Immediately following

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Faculty/Staff Achievements

Dr. Suneel Maheshwari has published a book, *Advanced Accountancy*, 9th ed., Vol. 1 (with S.N. Maheshwari), Vikas Publishing House, 2004.

Dr. Jose Morillo, associate professor of Spanish, presented the paper, "El nacionalismo espanol en el cine de la transicion" at the South Central Modern Languages Association held in New Orleans, Oct. 28-30. In addition, he has just reviewed the manuscript, "Hispanic Cinema in the Classroom," for Heinie & Heinie.

Susan Lewis

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seemed to be very pleased with them." She sometimes calls on her husband to lend a hand and he willingly pitches in and contributes his own considerable skills to the projects.

When it comes to festive occasions, Lewis offers a full-service stopping place and word of mouth has brought her all the business she can handle. Not only does she pull together party menus but she prepares the food and will create and supply decorations as well. In addition to the lavish cakes she makes, she also creates an assortment of candy—mints, molded chocolates and other types of handmade creations. By careful scheduling, she's able to juggle schedules that would daunt a beehive.

"You have to be dedicated and enjoy what you do," she says frankly.

She's always on call for special family celebrations and created a very special cake for her son, Bryan and his bride, Lisa, who Lewis says is just like a daughter to her. She's looking forward to catering the wedding of her daughter, Jennifer, who is in her third semester at Marshall majoring in Hospitality Management and will wed after her graduation.

Recently Lewis has added floral arrangements to her list of accomplishments. Just as she took numerous classes in cake decorating and candy making, she not only enrolled in flower arrangement classes, she went one step further and took a part-time seasonal job working at A.C. Moore, the crafts store. That's been a real fun job she says, but it's really more like a hobby. And they've tapped her creative talents as well. She teaches craft classes such as bow making and does floral arrangements.

With her love of crafts, it's not surprising that she crochets and creates a variety of needlework projects. In fact, her skills combined with her artistic flair recently won her a first place award in a needlework competition, the first one she ever entered. Her cozy cross-stitched picture, "Vertie's Porch" charmed the judges at the Wayne County Fair and took Best of Show. "I'm retiring from competition after winning the first time out," she says laughing. "I'm keeping this one. It's hanging on my wall. I love to work with crafts; it's my way of relaxing."

She's extremely organized and she would have to be to find time for all her interests. She's an active member of the First Baptist Church of Ceredo and she even finds time to bowl occasionally. Her tight-knit family goes on frequent outings together and this past summer the Lewises bought a boat which they put to good use on Grayson and Yatesville Lakes.

Lewis brings a spirit of enthusiasm to everything she does. "I just keep going," she says cheerfully. During her 36 years on campus, she's seen enormous changes come to the university. She's watched presidents come and go, administrations change, and old buildings come down and new ones go up. And coworkers have come and gone as well. She treasures the friends she has made here over the years.

"The people I work with are like a second family," she says. "I've made a lot of friends here at Marshall that I'll have for the rest of my life."

Marching Thunder

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their performance the day's activities will wind up with the presentation of the awards.

Admission is \$5 per person and free for children ages 5 and under. Parking charge for spaces in the West Stadium lot is \$2.

Klinger

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George's "second time around." The show also features the vocal talent of Didi Conn (Frenchie from the movie version of "Grease") as well as music and images that help tell the story of Burns' long life. George Burns was born in 1896 and died at the age of 100.

Farr has achieved wide success in the acting world. In addition to his role as Klinger he played Oscar Madison in the national tour of "The Odd Couple." His Broadway debut was established with his role as Nathan Detroit in the long-running "Guys and Dolls." He also appeared in "Moon Over Buffalo" and "Catch Me If You Can."

Tickets may be purchased through the Marshall Artists Series Box Office, located in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center. The box office is open Monday through Friday from noon to 5 p.m. Phone orders may be taken from the box office for patrons with a VISA or MasterCard by calling ext. 6656.

Bariatric Surgeon

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weight loss, and daily exercise and fitness, which will allow them to achieve the other one-third."

Nease says, "Because I grew up with a father who was morbidly obese, I have empathy and sympathy for the struggles patients have had. I also am very candid in making sure they understand their responsibility and how important it is for them to take ownership of the process.

At a minimum, the preoperative workup includes nutritional and psychological evaluation and education, as well as medical evaluation and testing. Following surgery there are continued dietary education programs to help patients make the necessary lifestyle changes.

"I tell patients this is not just surgery; it's a new way of life," he says.

Drinko Academy

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that stress what we hold in common rather than what separates us as a people."

Established in 1994 through the support of John Deaver Drinko, a 1942 Marshall graduate and senior managing partner of Baker & Hostetler, one of the nation's largest law firms, and his wife, Elizabeth Gibson Drinko, the Drinko Academy is devoted to enhancing public understanding of American institutions and the responsibilities of citizens to their society, particularly the sense of shared values and common purpose.

Based in Princeton, N.J., ASFIFS encourages research and discussion on an interdisciplinary basis. More information about ASFIFS and its model programs is available at www.freestudies.org.

Lions Club

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The group is asking people to look through drawers and closets for old, unwanted eyeglasses and to donate them to the Lions Recycle for Sight program. The collection started in October and will run through Friday, Nov. 16. The glasses will be shipped to one of ten Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centers where they will be cleaned, categorized by prescription and prepared for distribution by Lions and other groups.

The glasses will be distributed to those in need in developing countries where eye care is often unaffordable and inaccessible.